



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **OMAHA TRIBE OBTAINS USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT DOLLARS FOR IMPROVED REFUSE COLLECTION AND TRANSFER SERVICES**

**Norfolk, Neb., November 1, 2004**--The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development recently awarded a \$498,000 grant to the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska to improve and upgrade its solid waste collection and transfer services. The 956 rural residents of Macy and surrounding rural areas will benefit from the funding.

USDA Rural Development water and waste disposal grant 306C Native American dollars will allow for the addition of a 40' x 50' building with concrete floor to the 1998 Mother Earth building used for solid waste collection. A transfer station will be created at this site utilizing the same personnel responsible for waste collection, promoting efficiency in the solid waste program and generating significant savings on operation costs. Scales will be installed to allow charging by weight and to verify weight of vehicles prior to traveling to certified disposal sites. A planned concrete slab for white goods will make transfer into a roll-off container for disposal easier and keep excess dirt off of materials. Additional recycling efforts are also being planned.

"The Tribe currently hauls their solid waste 90 miles roundtrip three times weekly to the landfill in Jackson via a collection truck that was funded by USDA Rural Development," stated Jolene Kasper, community programs specialist for USDA Rural Development. "The establishment of the transfer station will allow the Tribe to make one trip weekly through the use of a semi-truck/trailer reducing hauling costs and truck wear and tear."

For additional information contact Jolene Kasper at 1909 Vicki Lane Suite 103 Norfolk, Neb. 68701 or phone (402) 371-5350, (402) 437-5093 (TDY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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